

February 2005

4th Landing Support Battalion Family Newsletter

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ALPHA COMPANY COMMANDER

Dear Friends and Family-

It is with great happiness that I write to you on what will likely be our last newsletter article prior to our redeployment back home. While the time is growing short, there are two different undercurrents of thought going through the minds of our Marines: one is the excitement and adrenaline looking forward to the major mission assignments that Landing Support Company is faced with in the remaining weeks of our deployment. The other is of nervous anticipation of only 8 weeks left before our flight out of Kuwait City International Airport. I'll do my best to focus on both of these thoughts, and explain what they mean to your loved ones and to you back home as well.

Mission:

I'm sure you have all been watching the Iraq Election with nervous and excited attention. By the time you read this the election will be over, and likely a new Iraqi President will have been identified. What you may not know is that for Al Anbar Province, Landing Support Company is a key player in this historic event. We are sending Marines to Baghdad and other bases to assist or take charge of the movement of election officials through those facilities and were tasked with establishing a secure processing center at Al Asad- having been hand picked for setting up and participating in this event. When you watch the election, know that your Marines are a critical ingredient in the overall success of this event that will change the entire course of history for Iraq.

Likewise, the long awaited redeployment process for US Marines in Iraq is going to be a hectic, time-intensive, and trying time for our Marines while they process approximately 30,000 individuals moving into and out of this theater of operations. The Al Asad team will process roughly 70% of these individuals moving into and out of Iraq, but Ali Al Salem and Kuwait City International Airport teams will process 100% of these individuals as they are the sole points of entry and departure through Kuwait. The Marines are leaning forward in the saddle for this evolution and are highly trained and highly energized. So from my perspective, I am looking forward to watching them work together as a team to succeed.

Redeployment Plan:

On our redeployment plan (at least as it stands right now) and what it means to you. As you are all likely aware, we have Marines spread out over 3 bases, 2 countries, and 5 specific missions. The end result of that is that our turnover to our replacements will not be a simple cut-and-dry evolution. As east coast Marines tend to do business differently from west coast Marines, our current mission will be broken up and assumed by 4 new detachments. In a nutshell, I believe that is a demonstration of how important and wide-ranging your Marines jobs have been while here.

As a result, our team will be turning over their jobs to II MEF the middle of February at different times. Once turnover is complete, Air Delivery Marines will be heading home the end of February. The remaining Landing Support Company Marines will complete their turnover according to the new units timelines and move down to Kuwait, where our Company will gather together for the first time since September. Our flight back to the US is tentatively slated for the middle of March, and you may have heard this already from your Marine. What I'd like to say about every movement (AD, advance party, and main body) is that while we do have a date already identified, these dates are tentative at best and may shift by several days - or weeks- mission and air flow dependent. Truly, the only day we will know for sure when we will be flying out is the day before our flight when it appears in "hard frag". So please be patient, and understand that dates are most definitely not set in stone at this point.

Upon arrival, Marines will be moving to Camp Pendleton for post-deployment classes, appointments, gear turn-in, and myriad of other items that will need to be addressed prior to heading back up north to Ft. Lewis. While our time there will be short, it will likely be over a week to ensure that we have accomplished everything that we need to do. I assure you that we will do everything in our power to move through Pendleton as quickly as possible while still allowing our Marines to relax at a steady pace after spending 6 months burning the candle at both ends. In return, I ask you to please understand that family members coming to Pendleton will not have the opportunity to spend time with their Marines when they are expected to be with their Company. What that means is that while they may be excited to see you, in order to expedite our process in Camp Pendleton I won't be able to grant special liberty to anyone- and that when we need to be together during the day for any out processing events everyone needs to be present.

Please give any thoughts on heading to Camp Pendleton special consideration- the official "Welcome Home" celebration will be in Ft. Lewis, and I'd like to see that be a special occasion that everyone finds equally exciting and rewarding. While Marines will be given evenings off, I can't make any promises on the time that anyone might have to see their Marine and also will let you know that my primary focus of effort at Camp Pendleton will be to quickly and smoothly complete what we need to accomplish with no disruptions. Upon completion of our time at Camp Pendleton, we will be moving back up to Ft. Lewis (likely via bus) and back home at a date to be determined sometime in the near future.

That being said, we are all looking forward to seeing you again very soon. Some mail is taking close to 8 weeks to arrive so please don't send any mail after the 1 February. That will ensure that anything you send will make it to your Marine and nothing will be "lost" in the Mail. A favorite quote, but one that will be aptly appropriate if we leave before your letter/package arrives. Over my deployments, I have never seen a package returned to sender after I have left theater.. so just a friendly suggestion.

Please know that your Marines are doing great things across Landing Support Company and I'm proud of each and every one of them for what they have accomplished here. This has been a rewarding deployment all around, so they should be coming back home with some great stories to share with you on their successes and their immediate participation in a historic period of our Nation's history.

Semper Fidelis
Major Doug Pierson

WITH THE PENDING RETURN OF OUR MARINES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SPOUSES AND FAMILIES DO NOT TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA TO MEET THEIR MARINES. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXPEDITE THEIR RETURN TO THE RESERVE CENTER IN FORT LEWIS. ONCE THE MARINES RETURN TO FORT LEWIS THEY WILL BE PLACED IN A 96 HOUR LIBERTY STATUS. AT THIS TIME WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE MARINES WILL RECEIVE A 96 HOUR LIBERTY PERIOD WHILE IN CALIFORNIA.

RETURN AND REUNION INFORMATION

INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES:

RETURN AND REUNION WORKSHOP FOR SPOUSES AND FAMILIES

http://www.lifelines2000.org/return/Reunion_files/frame.htm

RETURN AND REUNION GUIDE FOR FAMILIES AND MARINES

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/return/Marine%20Corps%20Return%20and%20Reunion.pdf>

RETURN AND REUNION INFORMATION FOR MARINES

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/return.asp>

FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT THESE WEB SITES PRIOR TO THE RETURN OF THEIR MARINE

Unit Telephone Numbers

4th LSB Staff Duty NCO	253-988-1071
Major Willis-Family Readiness Officer	253-968-7104
willisrm@mfr.usmc.mil	
SgtMajor Humphries-I-I SgtMaj/AFRO	253-967-2869
humphriesta@mfr.usmc.mil	
LtCol Proctor-PWST	253-968-7112
proctorga@mfr.usmc.mil	

Key Volunteer Coordinators

Mrs. Elisabeth Willis	360-802-9688
rmwesw@comcast.net	
Mrs. Stacy Morgen-Demer (I-I)	253-678-5094
facemorgen@yahoo.com	

Key Volunteers

Mrs. Cindy Griffin (H&S Co)	253-630-3124
Gcinfull@aol.com	
Mrs. Lynn Craig (I-I)	253-847-9302
lmcnola@msn.com	
Mrs. Bobbie Rickter (A Co)	360-458-8605
brickter@myway.com	

Key Volunteer Training-

www.marinenet.usmc.mil/portal/course-kvn.asp

L.I.N.K.S. Information- http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/Links/ftb_links_main.asp

TRICARE-1-800-404-4506

TRICARE ASSISTANCE:

<http://www.samhouston.army.mil/thems/them.asp>

Reserve Affairs

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/familyreadiness.html>

February and March Birthdays

10 Feb-Rachael Griffin (5)

20 Feb-Ben Taft (9)

10 Mar-Dylan Handsaker (1)

GREETINGS FROM CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA

From the Commanding Officer of Transportation Company

Team Carnivore has begun its training in Camp Lejeune. As I said to the families that participated during family day, that I consider it my responsibility to give the Marines good, hard and realistic training to prepare them for the challenges ahead. I do not take this responsibility lightly, and I intend to take full advantage of the facilities here and use them to our advantage as we prepare for missions in Iraq.

We have built a solid team. We have the best-qualified leaders in place to accomplish the mission and take care of Marines so that they all come home safe, happy and healthy. For most of our leaders, this is their second tour in Iraq and we will be capitalizing on this experience during our training and when we conduct our turnover in Iraq. Their energy and enthusiasm has been overwhelming.

The support of families and friends back home is essential to the morale and effectiveness of any deployed military unit. If the character of the Marines is at all indicative of what their families are like, I am fully confident in the support that the Marines will be receiving. I personally appreciate your efforts.

I am proud to lead Marines such as these and I am confident that we will succeed with honor and the nobility that Americans have come to expect of their Marines.

Semper Fidelis, Major Kern/Team Carnivore

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*Hello to all,
Welcome to CSSD 25. My name is Marcie McMahon and I am the KVC for CSSD 25. I will be your direct link to our Command in theater.*

I just wanted to touch base with all of you and introduce myself and your contacts. Some of you have already been in contact. It has been a very busy time for all of us and with all of the effort put forth by each and everyone of us, I feel that we will have a very successful network. Our families will be well informed and taken care of. Our Marines and Sailors should feel very confident and comforted with the support that we will provide to their families here in the rear during our deployment.

Kim Runfola will be the contact for all of our Marine Reserve KVC's. Amy Sitton will be the contact for our MED/Dental Sailors KVN & Naval Ombudsman. I am very confident and proud of their accomplishments thus far.

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MAILING ADDRESS FOR H&S MARINES DEPLOYED WITH CSSD 25

RANK / NAME
(PLATOON OF YOUR MARINE)
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
CSSD - 25
UNIT 76685
FPO AE 09509 - 6685

Transportation Company First Sergeant

I am the Transportation Company, "Team Carnivore" Family Readiness Officer and Company First Sergeant. I feel very proud and honored to have been selected to be the First Sergeant of this great group of warriors that hail from now 14 various sites throughout the United States and Okinawa. This team of fine American Patriots has already proven to be exceptional in every way. The organization, training and cohesion has already begun and our highly motivated Marines are well on their way to forming an alliance that is indivisible as we together begin our journey to forge the future. I wanted to inform everyone that we will have an extremely robust family readiness reach-plan that will keep all advised and informed on all of the great progress we will be making while forward deployed. As we continue to move forward supporting security and stability operations in Iraq, know that we will support each other and do our absolute best to take care of one another at all times. I wish peace and comfort to the hearts of each special family member that remains behind and ask that you do your best to overwhelm your beloved Marine with as much support as possible. Please pass the unit address to as many family members, friends and co-workers that believe it is important to show our Marines how much their dedication and commitment means to the security of this great and mighty nation. I thank you all and I look forward to seeing our Marines receive motivational mail; that will be the single most powerful contribution to the morale of our nation's heroes, our Marines. Continue to Reflect the Light! Sincerely, and Semper Fidelis.

Todd M. Parisi/First Sergeant of United States Marines.



REMINDER

If your loved one is seriously injured you will be notified by the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of the FRO receiving the information. Don't believe the so-called "prank" phone calls that something has happened to your Marine or Sailor.

Report such activity to your local police department immediately.

Trust only what you hear from your Marines Command, FRO, or from your loved one.